

In the Claims

The following list of pending claims replace any prior list of claims.

Listing of Claims

1. – 12. Cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~preparation of~~ producing an evolved protein wherein the evolved microorganism according to Claim 11 is cultivated in a culture medium appropriate for the production of the evolved protein, comprising:

a) preparing a modified microorganism by genetic modification of cells of an initial microorganism, wherein the production or consumption of a metabolite is inhibited when the initial microorganism is grown on a defined medium, wherein the ability of the modified microorganism to grow is impaired;

b) culturing the modified microorganism obtained in step (a) on the defined medium causing the modified microorganism to evolve compensatory metabolic pathways, where the defined medium can contain a co-substrate promoting the evolution;

c) selecting the evolved microorganism of step (b) able to grow on the defined medium, if necessary with a co-substrate;

wherein the evolved microorganism produces an evolved protein.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 13, characterized in that the produced evolved protein is purified.

15. – 37 Cancelled.